

## Prayer only hope for turnaround, missionary says

NASHVILLE (BP) — Only prayer by God's people will heal His church from complacency and a mediocre Christianity that weakens overseas missions, said former international missionary Gordon Fort to participants in PrayerLink, a national network to mobilize Southern Baptists in prayer.

"This is a call to pray. There's no other answer," Fort said at the PrayerLink 2013 annual meeting in Nashville in mid-October. "There's no other person going to come riding in on a white horse and save the day. The Republicans aren't going to save the day. The Democrats aren't going to save the day. A new independent party isn't going to save the day. This is something that only God Himself... will fix."

Fort, senior vice president for prayer mobilization and training at Southern Baptists' International Mission Board (IMB) in Richmond, Va., briefed the 20 PrayerLink members in attendance on the IMB's new School of Prayer for All Nations (SPAN) that immerses 10-15 people in an intensive week of prayer and Bible study at IMB's International Learning Center near Richmond.

"What is the need of the hour?" Fort asked the group. "You are the spiritual watchmen... You stand between the people of God and the nation and God Himself. What is the need of the hour? I just became convinced that... there's no answer except prayer. There's nowhere else to go. You can't program your way out of this. You can't manipulate your way out of this. You can't motivate people out of this."

PrayerLink, comprised of representatives from cooperating Baptist state conventions, the Canadian National Baptist Convention, and the ministry entities of the Southern Baptist Convention, promotes and facilitates a renewed prayer emphasis among churches.

SPAN, one of many resources available to churches, will offer sessions Oct. 28-Nov. 1, Dec. 2-6, and several dates in 2014.

Southern Baptists in the U.S. trail other nations in mobilizing Baptist missionaries and only prayer will change that reality, said Fort, a career missionary before joining

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## Ramping up production



**PROVIDING ACCESS** — Julius "Peck" Vaughan is shown with his crew installing a wheelchair ramp September 25 for James Brown and Sandra Patrick, Lincoln County. Pictured, from left, are Vaughan, Gerald Hart, and Roffie Burt. (Photo by Tony Martin)

## Lincoln Co. man on mission to provide wheelchair access for all

Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

The term "man on a mission" certainly applies to Julius "Peck" Vaughan, who, at the age of 91, has a definitive goal in mind. The Lincoln County resident intends, in his own words, to see to it "everyone in this area with a wheelchair will have a ramp to get in and out of their house."

"I kept hearing sermons from preachers who said that everyone had a spiritual gift. I said, 'I don't have a spiritual gift.' Then we went on a mission trip to California in the early 80's. On that trip, the Lord revealed to me what my gift was, and that was to help someone in need. That was our first mission trip."

Vaughan is a member of Macedonia Church. With his church, he has been on 28 mission trips to pioneer mission areas, from California to Pennsylvania.

"I've been building wheelchair ramps for folks since I was in my 70's," Vaughan said. "We've built ramps from Amite County to Hinds County."

When asked how he finds out who needs a wheelchair ramp built, Vaughan said, "Well, I'm

on Facebook. We advertise in our local Buyer's Guide. People can call the [Lincoln] associational office, and then they'll get in touch with me."

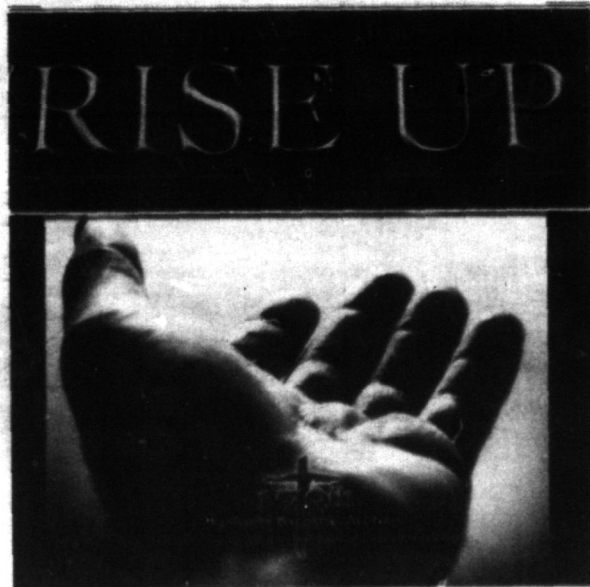
Vaughan puts together a crew for each job. On their job on September 25, his workers included a retired engineer, a personnel worker from Georgia Pacific, and a concrete business owner, among others. "I got all kinds of people," Vaughan said. "I have women who help, too. When people see a need, they're willing to help."

"Let me tell you about him," said Talmadge Smith, interim Associational Missions Director in Lincoln Association. "He's a World War II veteran, and taught school at Lloyd Star Consolidated School — he was my teacher. He was in the insurance business [“I had to retire from teaching because I couldn't make a living,” Vaughan interjected]. Then he worked in a funeral home for years and years. He's done plenty of mission trips, but he does most of his work locally."

Vaughan is also involved with Habitat for Humanity. "When someone's home burns and they don't have insurance, I help them get their home framed," he said.

Funds from the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering help pay for the wheelchair ramps Vaughan builds. Vaughan said

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS



October 29-30, 2013 • First Baptist Church, Jackson

## Our blessed unity

**M**ississippi Baptists will gather next week in Jackson for their annual meeting to praise the Lord, attend to the business of the convention, connect with old friends and former co-workers, find out what's new in state ministries, and — did I mention this already? — praise the Lord.

That's where the focus of the meeting will be, because praising the Lord is what Mississippi Baptists do best when they get together. There may indeed be issues that pit one brother against another on the floor of the convention. The debate is sure to be lively. There may be disagreements over all sorts of issues but if Mississippi Baptists remain true to form, there will not be disunity. The issues will be heard and acted upon, and the body of churches known as the Mississippi Baptist Convention will move forward to the honor and glory of God.

It's been that way for a long time, because Mississippi Baptists obviously have a great respect for one another and an unshakable faith in each other. That's evident at each annual meeting of the convention. Like most organizations the size of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, there are many viewpoints on the present and future direction of the convention. Those viewpoints, and the people who express them, should be treated fairly and diplomatically, free of suspicion, insult, accusation, and personal attack. In other words, like a Christian brother.

Mississippi Baptists really should see for themselves how fortunate we are to be so unified, and how blessed we are by

that unity. It's not that way in all state Baptist conventions. It's not unusual for a Mississippi Baptist Convention Board employee attending an out-of-state meeting to be asked by a weary employee of a sister state convention, "So, what are Baptists fighting about in your state?"

Every Mississippi Baptist should take the time to serve as a messenger from his/her church. Every church in the convention should be represented by messengers to the annual meeting. Unlike many Christian denominations where an unapproachable ecclesiastical hierarchy hands down edicts from on high, leadership of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is entrusted to the churches through the messengers they dispatch to Jackson each year.

Under our system of polity, the churches oversee the convention — not the other way around. Non-Baptists always seem to be surprised by that fact. It's a wonderful system of governance that has served us well in Mississippi for over 175 years.

Every Mississippi Baptist should see it for themselves. Talk with your pastor about representing your church as a messenger to the 2013 annual meeting. If your pastor isn't sure how to accomplish that, ask him to call toll free (800) 748-1651, ext. 201, to find out.

That way, when we are asked the inevitable question, "What are Baptists fighting about in your state?" the response will be, "The only fight in our state is the one to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus."

Could there be a better answer?

## What difference does it make?

**I**n Bill O'Reilly's new book, *Killing Jesus*, he discusses the Roman Empire and the life and death of Jesus from a historical viewpoint. This book has already sold millions of copies, but I differ with some of his views.

At the heart of our differences is the cause of death, a matter of significant consequence. This was brought into focus in an interview of O'Reilly by Norah O'Donnell on *Sixty Minutes*, in which he made the following comments:

O'Donnell: You include two quotes from Jesus on the cross, but not the most famous one: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Why not?

O'Reilly: We don't put in things that we don't think happened.

O'Donnell: How do you know?

O'Reilly: Because you couldn't say something like that, audibly that people would hear. He, you die on a cross from being suffocated. That your lungs can't take in anymore air. You can hardly breathe. We believe Jesus said that, but we don't believe he said it on the cross, 'cause nobody could've heard it.

I have long contended that Jesus did not die of suffocation, but of a ruptured heart. I am frequently asked, "What difference does it make how Jesus died?" There are multiple answers to this question, but the above interview highlights one of the more important reasons. Since Jesus did not die of suffocation, He not only could have said, "Father forgive them..." He would have had enough breath to cry out and suddenly die.

What bothers me as a conservative Christian is many people reading O'Reilly's book will be convinced there are errors in the Bible. The only error is O'Reilly's logic:

■ If Jesus did not have enough breath to say, "Father forgive them..." then how did He say the other quotes cited by O'Reilly?

■ The Synoptic Gospels all say Jesus cried out with a loud voice and gave up the spirit.

■ Matthew and Mark also say Jesus cried with a loud voice saying, "My God, My God..."

■ You cannot cry out with a loud voice if you are suffocating.



## Guest opinion

with David A. Ball

Whether one believes in the inerrancy of the Bible or not (and I do), O'Reilly's argument cannot be used as evidence for errors.

Like O'Reilly, I have also written a book about the crucifixion — *The Crucifixion and Death of a Man Called Jesus: From the Eyes of a Physician*. However, my book is not simply a recapitulation of historical facts and assumptions.

I have done scientific studies on the crucifixion of Jesus, including more than 200 simulations on a shop-made cross with real-life subjects. Not one of them has ever had any difficulty breathing. In approximately 20 of these simulations, I have recorded oxygen saturation levels, pulmonary function studies, blood pressure, pulse rate, respirations, and hang time.

I have published two scientific articles and written a book explaining my view. I was on the History Channel presentation of the crucifixion in 2008 and have been filmed for an upcoming presentation of the crucifixion by the Discovery Channel. I have done live presentations of the crucifixion in about 150 churches in 17 states.

With this background, I am absolutely confident Jesus did not die of suffocation. He died of a ruptured heart. God gives us confirmation of this with a post mortem exam cited in John 19:33-34 (KJV): *But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.*

The detailed explanation of this post mortem exam is beyond the scope of this article, but is explained in my book.

The widely held theory of suffocation is a result of "scientific assumption" without dynamic studies. It has been held as

see BALL on p. 7

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**MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS**  
VOLUME 137 • NUMBER 42 • ISSN-0005-5778  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.



# Football's merits debated among Baptist bloggers

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Football more than theology has become one of the Baptist blogosphere's dividing lines this fall. The debate waged in congenial fashion focuses on football's aggressive nature and Christians' response to its frequent violent hits and its effect on players.

A bit of common ground, however, emerges regarding football's appeal and its character-building qualities.

Football's "grace, precision, and the crushing of bone," as Owen Strachan puts it, make the game appealing. "There is nothing quite like a hit over the middle. A ballet-graceful wide receiver at full extension grabs a tightly thrown pass only to be smacked down like a rag doll by a heat-seeking safety."

Strachan, assistant professor of church history and Christian theology at Boyce College in Louisville, Ky., and executive director of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, wrote that observation in a post titled, *Our Shaken Faith in Football*, at *ChristianityToday.com* in early September.

Boyce College is the undergraduate school of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Two other Baptists in the blogosphere, David E. Prince and Jimmy Scroggins, also noted football's appeal in a joint post titled, *Is football too violent for Christians?*, at the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission website, *erlc.com*.

"No other game combines brute force and elegant choreography the way football does," Prince and Scroggins wrote in late September.

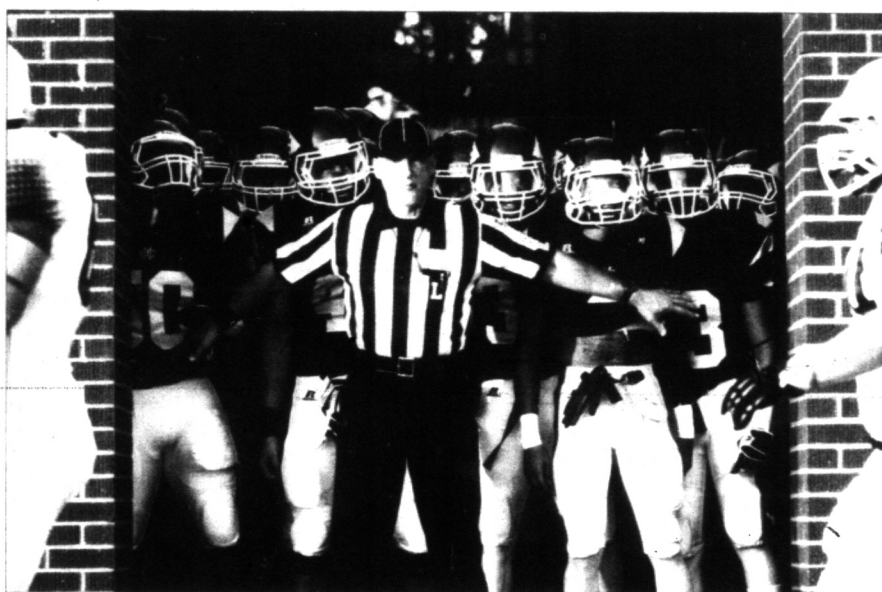
Prince is pastor of preaching and vision at Ashland Avenue Church in Lexington, Ky., and an assistant professor of Christian preaching at Southern Seminary. Scroggins is senior pastor of First Church in West Palm Beach, Fl.

Strachan, Prince, and Scroggins noted football's widespread appeal. It "provides a place for people of wildly different backgrounds to come together," Strachan wrote, and serves "a profound communal and civic function."

As Prince and Scroggins put it, "the atmosphere and pageantry of football attracts countless people who are fans of the spectacle more than the actual game."

Among numerous character-building qualities of the sport, the trio agreed that it calls for discipline, determination, courage, teamwork, and self-sacrifice.

"Many of these virtues," Strachan noted, "line up nicely with biblical character (1 Cor. 9:27, for example)," while Prince and Scroggins suggested that the Bible "draws a relationship between sport and war" and that "the lessons learned from agonizing and struggling in one can readily prove instructive for the other (Heb 12:1-4, 1 Cor 9:24-27, Eph 6:12, Phil 3:13-14)."



**READY TO PLAY** — Members of the Mississippi College football team await their turn to take the field at Robinson-Hale Stadium on the Clinton campus before the Oct. 14 game against Huntingdon College from Montgomery, Al. Mississippi College, currently 3-3 and facing Texas Lutheran University for Homecoming on Oct. 26, is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. (Photo courtesy of Mississippi College)

## The dark side

Then comes the debate over how Christians should respond to the game's inherent risks as well as its potential cultural downsides. For Strachan, the harmful physical effects that full-contact football has on players and its brutal nature raise "concerns for Christians, who of all people have the most stake in human flourishing based on the imago dei, the likeness of man to God (Gen. 1:26-27)."

Referring to the National Football League's deliberations over players with concussion-related injuries, Strachan asked, "[D]oes it behoove Christians to reconsider the game's violence? I think it does."

Strachan acknowledged that his question raises a "tough issue" because, "To lose football would be to see one of the primary laboratories for maturity (in young men particularly) disappear. It would change America, which has been warmly defined as fundamentally 'football and apple pie.'"

"Concussions are the scariest part of the game" and "are under-reported and under-diagnosed in youth sports," Strachan wrote. Despite millions of children playing football nationwide, he pointed out that, "there are almost no studies of the effects of youth football on the human brain."

Also, the "culture of football should concern Christians," Strachan wrote, and "football-related arrests, assaults on women and tiny children,

murders, drug charges, and more should not glance off the evangelical conscience."

Instead, "Christians should be informed about the nature of football," which is "affected by the fall" and "not impervious to the effects of the curse of Genesis 3," Strachan noted.

"Christians should think hard about involving their children in such a violent game," he wrote, acknowledging that "I would have

not a new one." They discussed the state of the game in 1905 when Theodore Roosevelt was president and 18 men died on the college football field, prompting calls to abolish college football.

Roosevelt, a fan of the game, expressed the opinion that abolishing football might result in producing "mollycoddles instead of vigorous men," Prince and Scroggins recounted. Roosevelt moved to save football and his "efforts resulted in a few changes that rescued the manly game he loved."

The duo quote from the book, *The Big Scrum: How Teddy Roosevelt Saved Football*, by John J. Miller: "In Roosevelt's estimation, the foes of football were wrong-headed idealists who simply refused to accept the risks that are attached to virtually any human endeavor. They threatened to feminize an entire generation."

Prince and Scroggins wrote that "Roosevelt's willingness to listen to concerns" and his "defense of a brand of football far more brutish and violent than today is instructive for the contemporary conversation about the ethics of the combat sport. We should always be willing to reform the game in ways that reduce risk but do not destroy the very character of the physical and manly sport."

Acknowledging that the NFL has "an ethical responsibility to inform players" about the known and potential dangers of football, Prince and Scroggins wrote that,

"Nevertheless it is wrongheaded to use data from NFL football players who have made the game their career at the highest level and attribute it to everyone who plays football."

## Safer than playground?

It is tragic, Prince and Scroggins wrote, that "despite the logical difference, many American parents are keeping their children out of youth football." They cite a survey that 25,000 fewer kids played football in the U.S. in 2012 than only four years before. From a news article, they quote a pediatric surgeon who said, "I tell parents that it's safer to send their children to Pop Warner [football] than to the playground."

"As Christians," Prince and Scroggins wrote, "we believe that it is our responsibility to take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). This means that followers of Jesus are right to question their participation in any activity, including football."

They lauded attempts to reform corruption and cheating in the game and "are saddened every time a player gets injured on the football field, but no more so than when one is injured in a cycling or skateboarding accident."

Nevertheless, Prince and Scroggins wrote, the "rugged, physically demanding, purposeful aggression of football is an asset, not a liability" on the gridiron, providing "a consistent and valuable metaphor for contemporary churches that need to remember that the Great Commission is not a public relations campaign, but rather a war cry that demands self-sacrifice."

Sacrifice and calculated risk "are good things that ought to be cultivated on a pathway from boyhood to Christian manhood," Prince and Scroggins wrote. "Sadly," they noted, "evangelicals seem to be leading the movement to train bravery and adventure out of our children in favor of a cult of safety."

Boys whose parents don't allow them to participate in sports like football, "because they might get hurt," will have a difficult time finding the apostle Paul remotely intelligible when he asserts, "For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:13), the pair noted.

In concluding their essay, Prince and Scroggins returned to Roosevelt's playbook, who they said purposefully recruited football players for his Rough Riders military unit.

"The church is in desperate need of some Christian Rough Riders who are willing to serve the church self-sacrificially and enter spiritual battle, no matter the cost. The modern church has too many mollycoddles instead of vigorous men, and our mission demands the latter."

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**David E. Prince and Jimmy Scroggins**

a hard time sending my son into a sport that is leaving 40-year-old men with dementia," which afflicts some former NFL players.

"Some conscientious, God-fearing Christians may strongly disagree with me," Strachan wrote, since football "affords joy in a world in which it can be hard to find... at the end of the day, the punishing nature of the game concerns me."

## Lessons from 1905

Prince and Scroggins pointed out that Strachan's question of whether football is too violent to be deemed ethically acceptable is

I recognize that I am jumping the gun. It is not New Year's Eve, and we are not in the New Year's Resolution thought process. But I want to talk with you just a moment about your health, looking ahead and looking to God for health. There are multiple areas of health that we deal with all of the time. Of course, there is physical health, spiritual health, intellectual health and emotional health, but there are also things like environmental health and financial health. For a decade in our Convention life, we have been staying really close to Jesus' words in Acts 1:8. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses from your doorstep to the ends of the earth." In trying to implement and live that out, all of the pieces have been before us.

As we have followed those early disciples in what they did, we arrived at Acts 3:1 where Peter and John are on their way to the temple to pray and they encounter a sick man. In fact, he was a sick beggar who had never walked. He was dependent on somebody to bring him to the entrance of the temple day after day to earn his living by begging. The truth is that the world of sick people is even larger now. From beginning to end, the ministry of Jesus was laced with Him being concerned about the ill people around Him.

In fact, His first sermon recorded in Luke 4 is based on the scripture in Isaiah 61 that God had anointed Him to heal the brokenhearted. And, indeed, repeatedly He was involved in touching human hurts and bringing help and healing. In Acts 3, this man at the Gate Beautiful needed healing spiritually, physically, intellectually and emotionally. His encounter with Peter and John and then with Jesus changed him, healed him and raised him up forever.

As we approach 2014, we want all of our Baptist family to be challenged and encouraged to look at their health in multiple ways. I am fully aware that it is impossible just to unravel all of the ways that we have hurts and sicknesses for they are intertwined. But for the sake of trying to look at our lives and what God may want to do in various areas of our being, it might prove to be helpful. Our bodies are not made nor our mental and spiritual capacities fixed with gauges like we have on our cars. You can quickly tell when you are running low on gas or when



## Health Check 2014

your engine is overheating. It is not near as easy to determine your health condition and your wellbeing in life. Just take a moment and think about how this man was healed and made whole in the various dimensions of his life.

**Physically he had never, ever walked.** All of us are aware of diseases and accidents that may bring difficulties to our lives. We do not fully know what had happened to him in his lack of physical development or maybe in some birth problem. But he was physically in bad shape. Maybe you are struggling with some deficiency or some major physical problem. For sure, God can help you. But for many in our world today, the greater problem with physical issues is our own self-imposed harm. Literally, many of the things that are creating impairments in our lives come from the things that we are doing, not doing or doing improperly.

Here in Mississippi, we have been declared the most obese state in the nation. Along with our larger than life appetites are all of the ailments fueled by our overeating. Add to our eating too much the problem of not exercising enough and the problems increase exponentially. The problems that come related to cardiovascular diseases, high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis and structural problems are all made worse by our own decisions.

**Peter and John said to the man that was there at the Gate Beautiful that they could not help him in the way that he wanted to be helped, but they could offer spiritual help that would change his life forever.**

I have always found it to be fascinating how we reject spiritual transformation and restoration as though it is not really meaningful. It is spiritual change that brings about peace, purpose, forgiveness and prospects for the future that can be found nowhere else. It is absolutely true that every one of us have spiritual illnesses and deficiencies, hurts and heartbreaks that can only be addressed by Christ.

**As you watch this story unfold in Acts 3, you recognize that this man's thinking changes in a beautiful way as he experiences intellectual healing and mental change.** The entirety of learning and knowing, acting and achieving is a part of the plan of God. The scripture says, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). If your thinking is out of line with the plan of God and the Word of God, you will find that your thinking is going to be sick. When we are saved, the Lord saves us from our sins not from our brains. He wants us to know the truth, to incorporate the truth in our daily walk, for our minds to be renewed and to be whole in Him.

**Finally, this man was healed emotionally.** There is so much emotional distress in many people's lives today that it is an epidemic. If you were this man in Acts 3, no doubt you would be depressed and heavyhearted daily because life as you know it and see it has no hope whatsoever. In a moment of time, an encounter with Jesus changed everything. His life was changed from one of daily despair and depression to one of joy, praising God and running through the temple. His life was dramatically different,

and his emotions were experiencing what they had never before felt.

Now as I walked through those areas of need that precious man experienced, what are the health needs in your life? Do you recognize in your own life those things that need to be addressed physically, spiritually, emotionally or intellectually? One of the things that we believe will help you to daily rise up in Christ is a calendar that will be available to all of our folks. If you would like to get one, every day during 2014 you can discover a scripture verse that will be addressing health and healing, hope and wholeness in one of these areas. You, along with me and thousands of others will be asking the Lord to help us in becoming all that He wants us to be and to be whole and healthy in all of these areas.

Not only will there be a verse of scripture to help you, but there is an action word of something that you can do. It may be just a small thing that if you will exercise that activity that day you will find it to be a blessing from the Lord. So the bottom line is that I want to invite you to do three things.

**1. Participate** - Join with the entire Mississippi Baptist family and maybe others who will join us along the way in an adventure of experiencing health and wholeness in Christ in multiple ways. You can purchase a 2014 Diary Health Improvement Calendar (\$1.50 each) that will help you to stay on course to do something about improving your health and letting the Lord guide you. You can receive the calendar by contacting the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board - Church Growth, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 or email: [sbell@mbcb.org](mailto:sbell@mbcb.org), or phone 601-292-3310 or fax 601-714-7424.

**2. Pray** - Ask God to show you the sicknesses, sores, pains, hurt, cuts and grief that may be in your life where He wants to restore health and wholeness to you in those areas. Be willing to ask the Lord to show you where you need His touch of healing.

**3. Praise Him** - In the name of Jesus rise up, and as this precious man in Acts 3 did, rejoice in the Lord with unchained delight. You can imagine and you can experience this joy. In 2014, begin to rise up, be whole and be healthy.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

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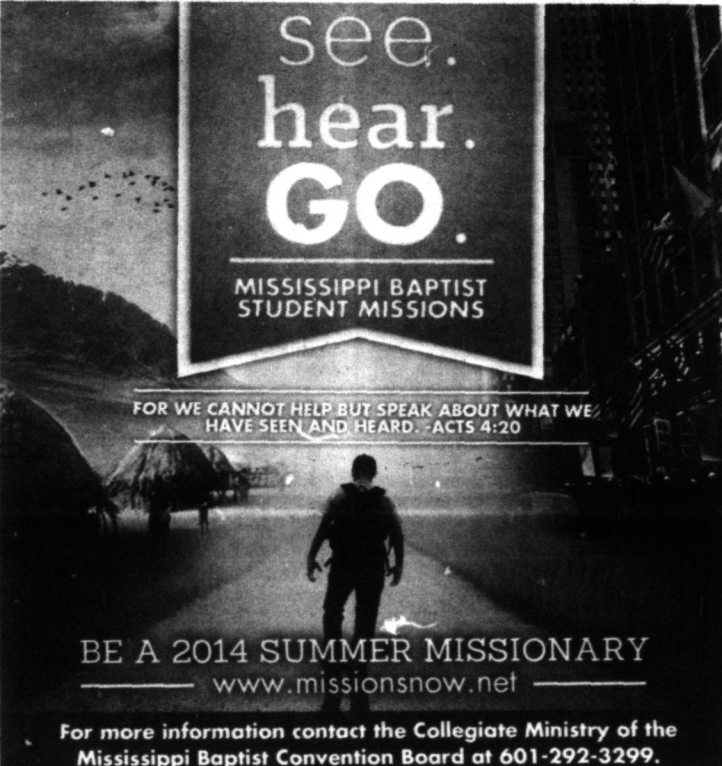
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 24, 2013

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



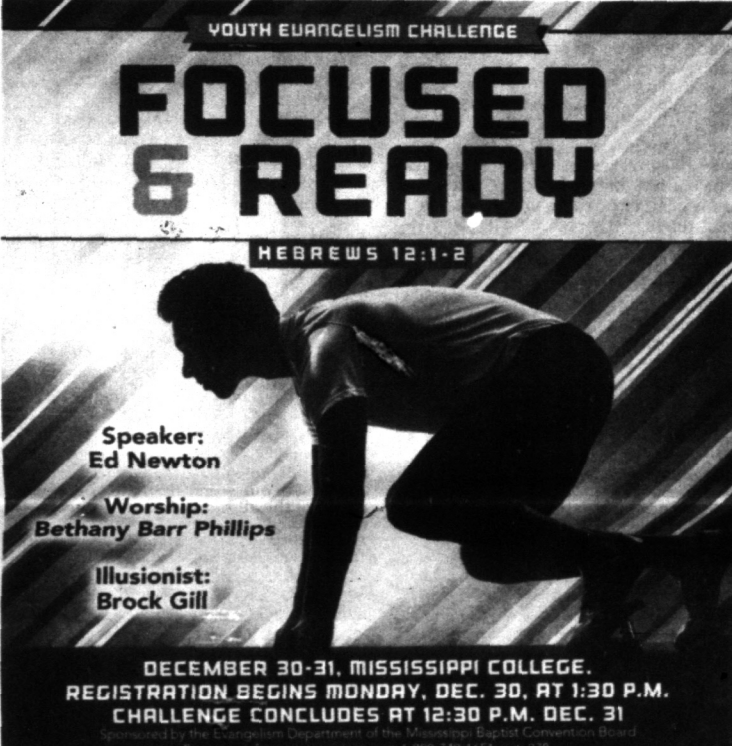
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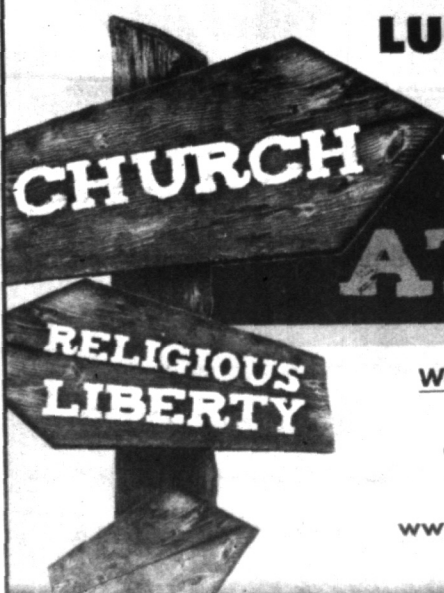
Speaker:  
Ed Newton

Worship:  
Bethany Barr Phillips

Illusionist:  
Brock Gill

DECEMBER 30-31, MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.  
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**Registration:** Register online at  
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OR call 601-292-3329



**Richard Land**  
President of Southern  
Evangelical Seminary



**Russell Moore**  
President of The  
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AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER PHONE
		C=Church, D=Office, H=Home
<b>Thursday, January 23, 2014 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.</b>		
Area 2	Harrisburg BC, 4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd, Tupelo, 38801	Mignon Williamson C-662-842-6817 Cory Bolen
Area 2	FBC, 106 E. Lampkin St, Starkville, 39759	Tom Jenkins C-662-323-5633
Area 3	FBC, 1700 Delaware Ave., McComb, 39648	Josh Willis C-601-684-2971
Area 3	FBC, 431 N. State St., Jackson, 39201	Wyndy South O-601-292-3272 O-1-800-748-1651
Area 4	Poplar Springs Dr. BC, 4032 Poplar Springs Dr., Meridian, 39306	Michael Gibson C-601-485-5106
Area 5	Petal-Harvey BC, 600 South Main St, Petal, 39465	Tim Moak C-601-583-1743
Area 5	FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave., Pascagoula, 39567	John White C-228-762-2343
Area 5	FBC, 607 W. 5th Ave., Laurel, 39440	Marilyn Huff H-601-763-8731
<b>Friday, January 24, 2014 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.</b>		
Area 2	Longview Heights BC, 4501 Goodman Rd., Olive Branch, 38654	Ada Cates Cell-662-404-3069
<b>Saturday, January 25, 2014 - 9:30 a.m. - noon</b>		
Area 1	Emmanuel BC, 245 Meadowbrook Rd, Grenada, 38901	Barry Worrell C-662-226-5316
Area 1	North Greenwood BC, 615 Grand Blvd., Greenwood, 38930	Patricia Ethridge C-662-453-2801



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### For more information:

[http://www.mbcbsfg/church\\_growth/cm/honor\\_choir.aspx](http://www.mbcbsfg/church_growth/cm/honor_choir.aspx)  
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## Praying for THE MIRACLE Living - THE MIRACLE

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Barbie Bassett

## Ministers' Wives Conference

OCTOBER 28, 2013 | FBC, JACKSON, 5TH FLOOR

Contact Cathy Taylor in the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. for registration information, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or [cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org)

Pray this day for...

October 25 - November 14, 2013

*"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."*  
2 Peter 3:18

Pray for: **Mark & Karen Alexander**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Arnold & Susie Austin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through community & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Shannon & Charlie Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Donna & Donald Brown**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach & church planting.

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

Pray for a team of five from **Good Hope BC, Purvis**, going to Africa, 11/5-11/15, for a pastors' conference.

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Pamela Carlton**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for a team of 11 from **Temple BC, Mosspoint** going to Africa in November.

Pray for a team of seven from **Lauderdale Association** going to Costa Rica, 11/1-11/8, for pastor school & evangelism.

Pray for a team of six from **FBC, Biloxi** going to Chile, 11/1-11/9, for women's ministry.

Pray for: **John & Claudia Brown**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard & Wanda Clark**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Guy & Cindy DeMars**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Kerri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Alvin & Mary Doyle**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through member care.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert & Margaret Fortenberry**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

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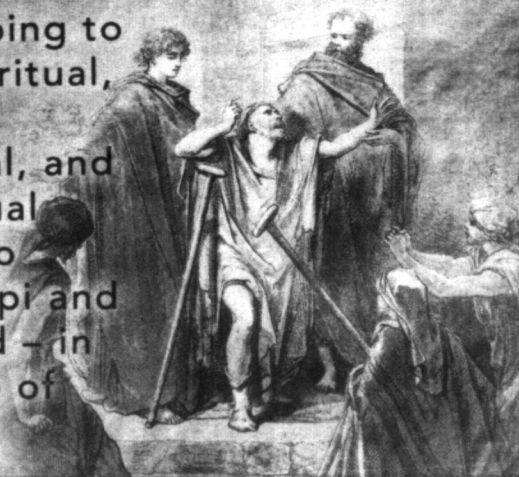
For more information contact the Discipleship &  
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or 601-292-3284  
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HOUSE TOPS



# What You Don't Know Can't Hurt You

**R**eally! Do you actually believe not knowing something can't hurt you? Is "ignorance" really bliss? It would be nice if these statements were true, but they are not. One thing we all have in common is worry. These two statements actually suggest, "If I do not know about something then I will not worry about it." You may not worry about something but that does not mean that it cannot harm you.

Companies, organizations, and political parties spend millions and millions of dollars each day to inform us and on some occasions

to twist or even hide things from us. No longer is there complete honesty and transparency in matters that affect the public. Therefore, it becomes urgent for each of us to research policies, legislation, and programs in order to discover how it will ultimately impact our lives and those of our offspring.

Do you remember when Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, said, "we must pass the Affordable Care Act before we can know what is in it?" Remember, "What you don't know can't hurt you?" There are thousands of small business owners who would

disagree. Religious groups are still fighting the mandate to administer abortion-inducing drugs and to pay for abortions. Is ignorance really bliss?

Do you remember "Fast and Furious?" What about the "Fort Hood Massacre" and the refusal to call it what it was, a terrorist attack on American soldiers. Then there was the murder of four Americans in Benghazi, the IRS scandal targeting conservative groups, the "Red Line" in the sand drawn by our President, the shutdown of our government and the barricading of the National War Monument to keep out our World War II veterans. For a President who ran on transparency, his tenure has been nothing but secrecy and deception, filled with falsehoods and cover-ups. He must think keeping the American public in the dark lessens opposition.

I am not suggesting you worry about every national event but you need to be concerned. Worry and concern are not synonymous. Worry is like a rocking chair, you

can rock all day and it gets you nowhere. Great concern might inspire you to take action. Concern should cause Christians to pray and get involved in the public arena. Christ told his followers that they were the "light of the world." If we fail to obey this command, our world will plunge further into an abyss of darkness and decay.



with  
Jimmy Porter

It should scare you when big government promises to take care of you and provide for all your needs. Translated, that means that whatever you have worked for all your life is about to be taken from you and distributed to others. Entitlements have to be financed by someone and that someone is you and it is I along with my children and grandchildren.

The federal government is still over-reaching into our lives. Remember the television show that made us laugh when the host said, "smile you are on candid camera." Now, the government agencies are taking your picture and snooping into all of your affairs, and believe me it is no laughing matter. Data mining is taking place at school, the doctor's office because of the Affordable Care Act and other venues as well.

Another matter with which to be concerned is Common Core, the latest government educational emphasis. Never believe "what you don't know want hurt you" on this one. How much longer will parents be allowed to have input into their child's education? Will

local communities determine the curriculum or will educational gurus located thousands of miles from where your children attend school dictate what is taught? These are some questions that need to be asked along with numerous others.

I was recently privileged to visit with an elderly gentleman who is nearing 90 years of age. We discussed many things such as quail hunting, camping, traveling, and church. Not too many months ago his wife died which naturally created much loneliness, even though he has a wonderful family who visits him daily. As I was leaving I prayed for him. I thanked God for his Christian influence and a sharp mind in which to treasure all the wonderful memories of his travels with his wife. After the amen, with moistened eyes, he thanked me and said, "I still have my hope."

I knew what he meant. The world is dark and lonely but his hope is anchored in Jesus, the One to whom he gave his life many years ago. He has lost a lot over the years but his hope is as strong as ever. It is the "hope we have in Christ and His coming again" that keeps us sane in an insane world. I ask you not to start worrying but be concerned enough to ask the hard questions, to seek the truth because it is the lies that will destroy us. We are the "light of the world" and if the world is dark—whose fault is it?

Porter serves as executive director-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or [jporter@christianaction.com](mailto:jporter@christianaction.com).

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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**BREAKOUT FOR PRAYER** — PrayerLink's 2013 meeting Oct. 10-12 in Nashville included several breakout sessions for small-group prayer. PrayerLink, encompassing prayer leaders from across the Southern Baptist Convention, pledged to seek God, elevate prayer, and help mobilize churches in prayer. (BP photo)

## PRAYER

cont. from p. 1

IMB's administrative team in 2004.

"This is what's deeply disturbing in my heart as I've come forward to lead our overseas office in global strategy," Fort said. "Our field leaders have said, 'Gordon if we could mobilize 8,000 missionaries, we could address every single unreached, unengaged people group.' Everyone in the world who has never had a witness could get a witness — and we could stay healthy and strong in the places where we have a foothold and are sharing the Gospel so that the Gospel can find root and the church could bear fruit, and we could then advance into the areas where

there's no witness and, in our lifetime, we could see literally every language, people, tribe and nation engaged with the Gospel."

IMB has nearly 5,000 missionaries in the field. Part of the reason Southern Baptists are not able to mobilize more workers is because they are battling moral depravity at home, Fort said.

"If you look at the condition of the church locally, if the manifest presence of God is not being experienced, then of course this would be no surprise to anyone here. Why would we export such mediocre Christianity?"

"It begins in church life. If members are transformed, you would see the impact of salt and light in the community and in the nation."

## RAMP

cont. from p. 1

that he gets \$250 from the association to build each ramp.

Some have asked Vaughan how he is able to do all he does. "I tell them that the Lord will give you time to do what He asks for you to do. And I have to say that I don't know where I'd be without my wife. When I married her, she moved me up to Macedonia." She has been with him through bouts with cancer and heart disease.

Workers on the crew for this particular job included Gerald Hart, a member of Macedonia Church; James Herring, Macedonia; Dick Douglas, Fair River Church; and Roffie Burt, First Church, Brookhaven. The youngest in the group was in his 60's. Typically, ramp recipients are asked to provide funds for the materials, if possible. Vaughan and his crews supply the labor.

"Peck is pretty persuasive," said Herring. "We went to a men's night meeting and found out about this work."

"If you're available, you'll find yourself working," said Hart.

"And Peck calls God in on the recruiting," added Smith.

James Brown and Sandra Patrick were the recipients of the new ramp at their trailer in rural Lincoln County. "My daughter had called when she found out these folks were building ramps," said Brown, who is wheelchair bound.

"There was a big 'jump' I had to make to get out of the trailer," Brown said. "It was hard to get down the old ramp because of that first step. So these folks got here this morning, started on the ramp, and they're just about through."

This was the 72nd ramp Vaughan has been responsible for building. "When everyone in this area has a ramp, then the Lord is going to come and get me. Then I'll be able to sit down beside Him and rest," Vaughan said.

## BIBL i O C I P H E R

LFV ZN QNFP WUEQLEV L CBPPCN, LFV

WNCC UF PZN XEUSFV, LFV HELKNV

PZLP, BW BP QNEN HUOOBMCN, PZN

ZUSE DBXZP HLOO WEUD ZBD.

DLEA WUSEPNNF: PZBEPK-WBRN

Clue: W = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm 25:5

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005



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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Baptist Memorial Hospitals of Mississippi encourage all women over 40 years old to get a yearly mammogram. According to the American Cancer Society, evidence supporting the benefits of regular screenings after 40 is stronger than ever. Our facilities strive to make regular screenings as easy as possible, so schedule your mammogram today.

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## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Elim Church, Quitman:** 175th anniversary, Oct. 27; services with singing, special music, and sharing, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Greg Massey, AMD of Lauderdale County, will present a certificate from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Grady Crowell, speaker.

► **Briar Hill Church, Florence:** 125th anniversary, Oct. 27; worship and other activities, 9 a.m.; for more information, call (601) 845-6843 or visit <http://briarhillbc.org>.

► **Zion Hill Church, Wesson:** Homecoming, Oct. 27; services, 10:30 a.m. with a time of remembering and worship, followed by lunch; Ronnie Burch, Wanda McLendon, and Mark Hamilton, special guests; Tom McCormick, pastor.

► **New Hope Church, Sumrall:** 180th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon service; Roy Davis, speaker; Jeffery Coulter, music; Charles Broome, pastor.

► **First Church, Olive Branch:**



**CALVARY CHURCH, PETAL,** celebrated its 75th anniversary Sept. 22, with David Shoffner as the keynote speaker. Shown is the burning of the church note, with Chuck Geary, left, and pastor Bill Burk.

175th anniversary, Oct. 27; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner and festival, noon; Roger S. (Sing) Oldham, speaker.

► **Georgetown Church, Georgetown:** Homecoming, Oct. 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; service, 10:45 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Stacy

Andrews, speaker; worship team, music.

► **Salem Church, Tylertown:** Homecoming and revival, Oct. 27-30; Sun., Tommy Priest, speaker; Steve Sowell, music; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Perry Robbins, speaker; Shelly Johnson, music; Mark Wicker, pastor.



# Asking Questions About Jesus? • John 7:14-18, 25-31, 33-36

If the church you attend is similar to the one I pastor, you probably have some type of plans next week for fun and community outreach. You may call it Trunk-or-Treat, Fall Festival or something similar; but the purpose is the same. You hope to create a safe and enjoyable environment for the kids and their families in your community. I think that is wonderful. The church buildings and campuses God has blessed us with aren't solely for sermons; they should be open to everyone. I even have a costume picked out! I think it is unique and could be a contest-winner. It is possibly the most terrifying collection of garments you have ever seen. You may be thinking scary costumes shouldn't be allowed at church events. I agree certain costumes are not the best for children to wear, but the one I have picked out is more terrifying than anything you could imagine. It is, in fact, exceptional. Would you like to see it? Are you sure you can handle it? Well, you just did. You see the punctuation mark at the end of this sentence? That is my costume: a question mark!

The more time I spend with some Christians, the more I am convinced they are terrified of questions. They do not like to be asked questions and are hesitant to ask any of their own. They are in fact: scared. Many

in the Christian faith view questions as the evidence of someone weak in their faith. Others see questions as futile or unnecessary. I wholeheartedly disagree. Questions are the sign of a growing and vibrant faith. Questions (even without answers) usher us to a more transparent and authentic faith. A faith that hasn't been tested can't be trusted. For some reason, there are those that believe questions about God and for God are somehow wrong. If that is true, King David, the prophets, disciples and a host of other believers were wrong a lot!

The reason many Christians are scared of questions is due to the fact they feel inadequate in their ability to properly answer them. As we study the Scriptures (more specifically, the life of Christ) and meditate on the truths found in them, God will reveal both Himself and the answers to our questions and concerns. We panic at questions because it forces us to share our beliefs and

convictions. The problem with that is so many Christians do not know what they believe or how to effectively share their faith. Why this lack of knowledge of confidence and conviction? Because numerous believers don't take the time to ask the hard questions, that is why.

Throughout John 7 Jesus is on the giving and receiving end of some important questions. It should be noted here that on several occasions questions were asked of Jesus so they could attempt to accuse

Him or cause Him to stumble. They were never successful due to the fact Christ knew their hearts and intent. We don't have that luxury. However, we can pray for discernment when the hard questions come or the one asking them may have less than honest motives.

The lesson this week focuses on the following three questions: Is Jesus' teaching valid? Is Jesus really from God? Finally,

how can we understand Jesus' teaching?

The answer to each of these questions is where you would expect them to be: the Scripture. As you read the responses of Jesus to the series of questions it should be noted the calmness He utilized. Sometimes parents can grow frustrated with the litany of inquiries their child makes. Jesus never does. One of the most compelling points I would ask you to consider is the fact that Jesus not only answered the questions, He answered the people asking the question.

Don't simply share facts with others that are searching, share yourself. Jesus looked past the question and saw the person. A few months ago, one of the youth in our church came up to me after the morning worship service and asked, "What is the difference in a Baptist and a Christian?" At first I thought she was waiting to share the punch line of a joke, but she was serious. She had heard and seen so much about Baptists while in our church, she was worried that she might have missed something of eternal importance. For me, that moment was both scary and humbling. Questions will be brought to you unexpectedly by people desperately needing an answer. How will you respond?

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.



Explore the Bible  
with Bobby McKay

## Stand Down • Genesis 13:1-18

Have you caved to save a friendship, relationship with child, spouse, boss, employee, neighbor, etc.? Humility has to manifest its influence somewhere. Pride and selfishness say we should win every time, but conflicts can be solved without getting "all things my way". Sometimes our "giving in" actually strengthens or enhances relationships. Its okay to just sorta hang your head and pray "Lord show me how to think about others."

Smooth transition? Not always. In Genesis we have the beginning of the beginnings. God wanted a chosen people for witnesses to other nations through whom He could bring the promised Messiah. God sent Abram to settle in Canaan after a short time in Egypt. Abram was profitable in his faith, promises, silver and gold, and now his and Lot's herds have overrun the territory. Arguments about water and grazing rights arose among the herdsmen. Success often brews disagreements. Abram was wise and used times of worship as a prelude to decision making. Worship has a way of humbling us and reigniting our recognition of a higher power.

We cannot ignore the fact that Abram was the patriarch of the family, was wiser, and had inalienable rights. Still he had to make a selfless decision about the separa-

tion of the two families. Often the only productive solutions for family conflicts are to forgo our own interests and let those of others prevail. Obviously Abram loved Lot and valued that relationship. Are we seeking to win the conflict though we will lose the relationship? Riches can cause strife and contention among relatives, church families, neighbors, etc. Consider the cost.

Yes, Lot chose the better grass and water, and Abram readily agreed, because he was living by faith. Lot lived by sight, symbolizing alliance with the world, and heavily relying on the capability of the flesh. God still kept his original promise to Abram (I will bless thee.)

This was a major decision with the potential of creating a scandal in this new territory. No doubt the neighbors had their eyes focused on them due to the singularity of their religion and the enormity of their wealth. Church families

have quarrels over lesser issues but we're taught to quench the fire and preserve the peace. Abram very cogently prayed for there to be no strife and he turned away wrath with a soft word because they were family. Christians must strive for peaceable solutions and allow this to moderate our passions.

Abram was more than fair with his proposal. It was as if he were saying "why

should we quarrel over space, since there's more than plenty for both of us." (How much more pleasant {Christian}

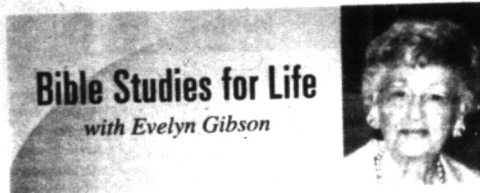
could he have been?) We don't know that God offered any of the land to Lot, but Abram knew how to preserve a relationship. Abram hereby took control of his own pride and passions and kept his faith intact, leaving him no guilt to bear.

Do we wonder why Lot didn't remit the choice back to Abram or at least show some reluctance to make first choice? Lot chose what seemed to be the Garden of

Eden, rich and productive. Unhappily, though, he fell into the briar patch and never seemed to have a good day. God finally poured out fire upon the settlement of Sodom with their pride, fullness of bread and idleness, and the chosen verdant valley had to be abandoned by Lot and family. The lust of his flesh, the pride of his life, overruled the principle that what is best for us must be that which is best for our souls. Lot laid up treasures for him on earth and thieves showed up.

God paid Abram a most gracious visit to renew and ratify the promises originally made to him. The land is now his by faith because he has God's word on it. Chapt. 13 vs. 15-16 (NIV Study Bible) "All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted." Go walk the land and appropriate it and feel at home. Abram's total obedience brought him into the will of God. How safe is that! In vs. 17-18, Abram returned to Hebron and built an altar for full fellowship with his God. His decision to stand down would show up as a positive for his descendants.

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.



Bible Studies for Life  
with Evelyn Gibson

## BALL

cont. from p.2

the principal reigning cause of death for around 80 years and is still considered by many as the cause of the death of Jesus. I too originally believed this, before I began to study the crucifixion in earnest.

There are no scientific studies that suggest Jesus died of suffocation. It can only be ac-

cepted through "circular reasoning" as follows:

1. Suffocation was the usual means of death by crucifixion.
2. Therefore, Jesus died of suffocation.
3. The Bible quotes Jesus as saying, "Father forgive them..."
4. He could not have said this because suffocation was the usual means of death by crucifixion.

The suffocation theory has

held sway among scientists for years because "it sounds logical." This logic reminds me of Galileo's 1589 experiment when he dropped two balls of different masses from the Leaning Tower of Pisa to demonstrate time of descent was independent of their mass. Prior to that, it was held as inviolable truth the heavier ball would fall faster, because it sounded so logical.

Likewise, the suffocation theory might sound logical,

but it is not validated with empirical data.

As the news and entertainment media chip away at the truth of the Bible, we should not be surprised that church growth is sagging. Christian people cannot afford to allow these challenges to go unanswered!

The Bible quotes Jesus as saying, "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." As with everything in the Bible, there is a reason for its inclusion. This

quote by Jesus from the cross is specifically directed to those responsible for His crucifixion.

I am responsible. I am guilty. It was my sins that nailed Jesus to the cross. I am so thankful He forgave me, then and there. Aren't you?

Ball is a practicing physician and deacon at First Church, Batesville. He may be contacted at dball@panola.com. His web site is iamtheway.com.

## Just for the Record

### In other Church News:

► **First Church, Eupora**, will host The Chuck Wagon Gang and Southern Image Quartet in concert Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m. Love offering.

► **Pulaski Church, Pulaski**, honored Kathy Warren for 33 years of service as church clerk Oct. 5. She was presented a plaque in appreciation of her service by pastor Mickey Walls. Warren also serves as music director.

► **Holcomb Church, Holcomb**, will have a Harvest Festival Oct. 26, 5 - 8 p.m., with Brunswick stew, chili, hot dogs, and dessert. There will be games for children, a cakewalk, and a hayride.

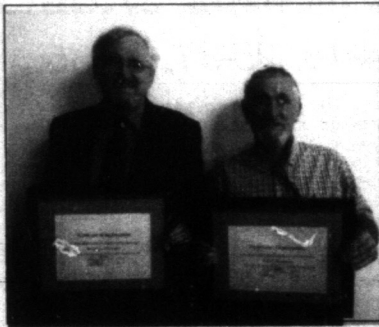
► **Belle Fountain Church, Ocean Springs**, will have a Fall Family Festival Oct. 26, 3 - 6 p.m., with games, food, and prizes. The church will also have trunk or treat Oct. 31, 5:30 p.m.

► **Macedonia Church, Petal**, will have a fall festival Oct. 30, 6 - 8 p.m., with antique cars, Disney princesses, Seymour from USM, free food, candy, games, hayride, and more.

► **New Henleyfield Church, Carriere**, will host a fall festival Oct. 26, 4 - 6:30 p.m., followed by a hayride.

► **Siloam Church, West Point**, will host The Blackwood Brothers in concert Nov. 1, 7 p.m.

► **Bluff Springs Church, Pike County**, will have its Fall Fest Oct. 26, 3 - 5 p.m., including games food, a country store, and a silent auction followed by trunk or treat on the church grounds and a hayride. Billy Simmons, interim pastor.



**NEW HOME CHURCH, SMITH COUNTY**, recently presented 50 year membership plaques to brothers Cary Douglas Stringer and Wendel Keith Stringer. Both have served as deacons, Sunday School teachers and various committees during their years of membership at New Home.



**CALVARY CHURCH, PETAL**, ordained Paul McKinley (center) as a deacon Oct. 6. Pastor Bill Burk (left) presented McKinley with his ordination certificate and a Bible. Shown with McKinley are his wife Beth and daughter Gabrielle.



**EBENEZER CHURCH, ATTALA ASSOCIATION**, recently held a baby dedication service for Thrasher Triplett. Shown are Amanda, Thrasher, and Chris Triplett with pastor Larry Harvey.

### Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## College News

### In College News:

► Homecoming at **Blue Mountain College** will be Nov. 2. BMC will face Fisk University in a 2 p.m. women's and men's doubleheader in Tyler Gymnasium - following a family day festival from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on the BMC campus. The festival will include food, music, arts and crafts, health fair, children's games, and a classic car show. The BMC Homecoming Court will be presented at 12:30 p.m. in the Administration Building Auditorium. Food vendors specializing in catfish, hamburgers, hot dogs, and sweets will join approximately 30 artisans from North Mississippi and West Tennessee - including Charles Buster, Joe Bedford and Ripley mayor Chris Marsalis - and set up tents and booths to sell their wares on The Green in front of the BMC Administration Building. Classic cars from around the region, in-

cluding autos from three car clubs, will share The Green with the artists and food vendors. The health fair - co-sponsored by BMC and the Baptist College of Health Sciences - will be held in the Armstrong Gallery where visitors can have their blood pressure checked, their blood screened, and their body mass index measured for free.

► More than two dozen **Mississippi College** student nurses will offer health screenings to pastors and hundreds of other visitors at upcoming Mississippi Baptist Convention meetings. The 178th annual conference will convene October 29-30 at First Church, Jackson. The 25 MC student nurses will check blood sugar and blood pressure levels, give flu shots, provide advice on healthy eating habits and much more. They will be joined by several nursing professors.



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